

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20 OIC-04 AEC-11

OMB-01 MC-02 DRC-01 /166 W
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P R 041521Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9053

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

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SHAPE FOR INTAF: VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL: GENEVA FOR CSCE
DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: STABILIZING MEASURES

REF: (A) U.S.NATO 5869, (B) BONN 17103

1. CAUTIOUS FRG POSITION AT DEC 3 NAC MEETING (REF A)
AND COMMENTS MADE TO US DURING THE LAST WEEK BY FONOFF/
DEFMIN OFFICIALS SUGGEST THAT A CONSENSUS HAS NOT YET
JELLED IN BONN CONCERNING MBFR STABILIZING MEASURES.
FONOFF REPS SHOW UNDERSTANDING OF RATHER ISOLATED FRG
POSITION IN ALLIANCE ON PRE-REDUCTION CONSTRAINTS AND
INDICATE SOME READINESS TO DROP PRE-REDUCTION CON-
STRAINT CONCEPT (REF B). HOWEVER, DEFMIN OFFICIALS ARE
CONTINUING TO EMPHASIZE NEED FOR PRE-REDUCTION MEASURES

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BOTH TO TEST SOVIET READINESS TO ACCEPT LIMITATIONS ON

RED ARMY ACTIVITIES AND TO REDUCE ATTENDANT RISKS OF REDUCTION AGREEMENTS. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF, AND, WE ARE TOLD IN INTERMINISTERIAL TALKS DURING LAST WEEK, DEFMIN OFFICIALS ARE ASKING RHETORICALLY WHY ONE CAN ASSUME SOVIETS WOULD AGREE TO UNWANTED CONSTRAINTS DURING CLOSING PHASES OF NEGOTIATIONS ON REDUCTIONS, WHEN CONGRESSIONAL AND USG PRESSURE TO REACH AGREEMENT MAY BE INTENSE, IF SOVIETS ARE UNPREPARED TO ACCEPT STABILIZING MEASURES IN PRE-REDUCTION FRAMEWORK. DEFMIN OFFICIALS COMPARE THIS SOVIET PREFERENCE TO DISCUSS CONSTRAINTS ONLY COLLATERAL TO REDUCTION'S WITH ALLIED DELAYING TECHNIQUE ON CSCE FOLLOW-UP. IN SUM, THE DEFMIN OFFICIALS SAY THEY CONTINUE TO FAVOR PRE-REDUCTION MEASURES GIVEN THEIR ABIDING SKEPTICISM OVER SOVIET MBFR MOTIVES, HAVE THE UNSETTLING FEELING THAT "CONSTRAINTS POSTPONED MAY BE CONSTRAINTS THAT NEVER COME" AND EMPHASIZE THAT THERE PRESENTLY IS NO URGENT REASON TO SKIPOVER THE AGREED ALLIED PROBE CONCERNING PRE-REDUCTION MEASURES IN ORDER TO PRESS FORWARD WITH REDUCTIONS.

2. AS TO THE SPECIFIC PARA 23 MEASURES, WE WOULD NOTE THAT OUR FONOFF AND DEFMIN CONTACTS HAVE PRIVATELY GONE SOMEWHAT BEYOND KRAPF'S DEC 3 POSITION, SAYING THE FRG CAN RPT CAN ACCEPT A LIMITED DURATION MEASURE II (PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAJOR EXERCISES), AND ACKNOWLEDGING THAT BONN WILL DEFER TO THE ALLIANCE MAJORITY ON THE U.K. MORATORIUM PROPOSAL. IN CONTRAST TO FRG DEC 3 NAC STATEMENT, DEFMIN REPS ALSO VOICE READINESS TO CONSIDER MBFR TREATMENT OF MEASURE IV (EXCHANGE OF OBSERVERS AT MAJOR EXERCISES), ASSERTING THAT WEST COULD STAND TO LEARN MORE FROM THIS MEASURE THAN WOULD EAST. HOWEVER, FONOFF AND DEFMIN OFFICIALS ARE UNITED IN THE VIEW THAT QUICK NATO AGREEMENT ON EVEN TITLES OF MBFR STABILIZING MEASURES WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE GIVEN DIVERGENT U.K./FRG VIEWS ON APPLICATION OF MEASURES TO EUROPEAN FORCES AND, EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, "QUESTION-MARK HANGING OVER U.S. POSITION ON CSCE/CBM'S." HILLENBRAND

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